

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, XF, UK

SUBJ: PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION ISSUE AT LIBERAL
PARTY CONFERENCE

1. EMBASSY OFFICER ATTENDING LIBERAL PARTY CONFERENCE AT SCARBOROUGH CALLED TODAY TO REPORT THAT CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW, FORMER LABOR MP WHO JOINED THE LIBERAL PARTY A YEAR AGO, RAISED A SPECIAL QUESTION AT THIS MORNING'S SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE URGING SUSPENSION OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS IN ORDER TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY SAID HAMMAMI, LONDON REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLO, WHO IS NOW AT SCARBOROUGH AS THE GUEST OF A PARTY MEMBER. THE REQUEST TO SUSPEND THE ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS SUPPORTED BY MORE THAN THE REQUIRED 100 DELEGATES, BUT THE STEERING COMMITTEE OPPOSED THE MOTION ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE PLO IS NOT A FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION; THE STEERING COMMITTEE DID NOT DEAL WITH THE MERITS OF THE CASE. ON A SHOW OF HANDS, A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE ORDER OF BUSINESS WAS DEFEATED, AND A LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATES (MOSTLY YOUNG LIBERALS) LEFT THE HALL. THE OUTCOME IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO ADDRESS BY HAMMAMI WHO HAS, HOWEVER, SPOKEN TO SEVERAL GROUPS ON THE FRINGES OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. LONDON PRESS SEPTEMBER 17 REPORTS HAMMAMI HAD BEEN INVITED TO ADDRESS THE LIBERAL CONFERENCE BY THE YOUNG LIBERALS' FORMER PRESIDENT, PETER HAIN, BUT THAT THE INVITATION HAD BEEN DENOUNCED BY PARTY LEADER THORPE WHO

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CALLED THE PLO "A MOST APPALLING ORGANIZATION WITH BLOOD

ON ITS HANDS,"AND THAT CHIEF WHIP CYRIL SMITH SAID
MAJORITY OF MP'S WOULD WALK OUT IF HAMMAMI ADDRESSED
THE CONFERENCE. HAMMAMI ADDRESSED MEETING OF "ABOUT 50"
YOUNG LIBERALS SEPTEMBER 16.

RICHARDSON

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